

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 13, 14, and 16-21 are presently active in this case, Claims 11, 13, 14, and 16 having been amended and Claims 1-10, 12, and 15 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment.

Claims 17-21 have been allowed.

Claims 12, 13, 15, and 16 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of Claim 12 has been incorporated into Claim 11, thus placing Claim 11 into condition for allowance. The subject matter of Claim 15 has been incorporated into Claim 14, thus placing Claim 14 into condition for allowance. Furthermore, Claims 13 and 16 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the outstanding Official Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to because of minor informalities. Accordingly, a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure has been added in place of the original abstract. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to the abstract.

Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yaegashi et al. (JP 09-260075) in view of Quinn (U.S. Patent No. 4,425,075) and Raajimaakers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,587). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

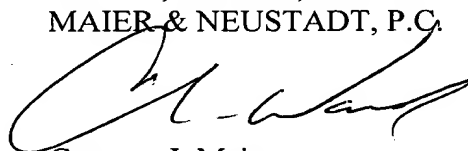
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As noted above, Claims 12 and 15 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of Claim 12 has been incorporated into Claim 11, thus placing Claim 11 into condition for allowance. The subject matter of Claim 15 has been incorporated into Claim 14, thus placing Claim 14 into condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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